

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

June 30, 2023



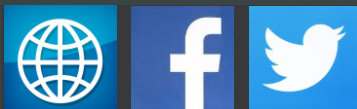
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Justice for Mary

Yesterday, a Monroe County jury convicted 54-year-old Ronald Lagasse of Murder in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Mary Simzer.

On September 24, 2022, Mary was found by Rochester Police Officers deceased in an alley with tree branches shoved down her throat and up her vagina.

Ronald Lagasse did not only murder Mary, he defiled her. This defendant is violent, calculated, and dangerous. Based on the evidence I presented on trial with Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, the jury came back with a guilty verdict after deliberating for approximately 45 minutes.

Two weeks ago, I spoke about why I do this job. I do it for victims like Mary Simzer. Mary was a sister, a mother, a grandmother. It was my duty to be Mary's voice in court. It was truly a privilege to be her advocate over the past two weeks.

While I am proud to have secured justice for Mary, I am also relieved that Ronald Lagasse may spend the rest of his life in the New York State Department of Corrections, far away from our community. As a registered sex offender and convicted murderer, he is a danger to the public. I sincerely hope that he contemplates his brutal and unimaginable actions that led him to his incarceration.

I want to take a moment to compliment my second chair, ADA Aliyah Fowler. This was Aliyah's first murder trial and I am proud of the way she dedicated herself to this case and this trial. I expect that this community will hear more about Aliyah in the coming years!

I want to thank the Rochester Police Department's Major Crimes Unit for leading this thorough investigation and collecting the evidence proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Ronald Lagasse committed this heinous murder. We would have not been able to do this without their detailed investigation.

Homicide Update

So far in 2023:

City of Rochester Total:
22

Monroe County Total: 26

I hope that everyone enjoys their weekend with family and friends. I will relax knowing that our community is safer with Ronald Lagasse incarcerated.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The jury is currently deliberating in the trial of People v. **Trevor Smith** in front of Monroe County Court Judge Vacca. Trevor Smith is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Jeremy Hamilton, Jr. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity & Economic Crimes Bureau.

A Monroe County Jury convicted 30-year-old **Timothy Brown** of two counts of Murder in the 1st Degree, two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the murders of Tywan Harper and Malakai Smith. On November 11, 2021, Rochester Police Officers responded to an apartment building on Chestnut Street in the City of Rochester after multiple people called 911, reporting that gunshots were fired inside the building. Upon arrival, the officers found 19-year-old Malakai Smith shot to death and 22-year-old Tywan Harper shot and beat to death inside a stairwell in the apartment building. After a thorough investigation, the Rochester Police Department identified Timothy Brown as responsible for the double homicide. Timothy Brown was arrested for the murders on December 14, 2021. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Unit.

35-year-old **Israel Romero** pled guilty to Burglary in the Second Degree for burglarizing a residence in the Town of Irondequoit and damaging property inside the residence. The defendant will be sentenced to state prison on September 18, 2023 by Monroe County Supreme Court Justice Moran. This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Major Felony Bureau.

32-year-old **Lamar Brown** was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Hahn to 16 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections as a mandatory persistent violent felony offender. He was previously convicted by a Monroe County Jury of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Michael Carey was indicted on two counts of criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, Attempted Robbery in the 3rd Degree, and Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree in relation to multiple domestic events. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Simon Reznichenko was indicted on two counts of Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th Degree in relation to multiple thefts in April 2023 and May 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ellie Laloudakis, of the General Felony Bureau.

Deandre Newsome was indicted on four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to an assault and illegal weapons possession during the month of March 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Shanice Nurse was indicted on Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated With a Child Passenger and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to the a vehicular incident on November 12, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kelly Pettrone, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Ryan Spivey was indicted on Arson in the 3rd Degree in relation to the arson of a building in the Town of Parma on May 23, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Kristin Demay was indicted on two counts of Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to a robbery on April 5, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Dion Washington was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Bruce Ellis was indicted on Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, two counts of Criminal Mischief in the 4th Degree, and two counts of Aggravated Family Offense in relation to domestic incidents on June 13, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark, Deputy Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

David Vellon-Lopez was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to a vehicle stop on June 14, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

MCDA in the Community

Assistant District Attorneys attended the annual Bivona Child Advocacy Center Golf Tournament. This tournament benefits Bivona, an incredible child advocacy center that helps protect and comfort our community's most traumatized children. Pictured below are ADA Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, ADA Patrick Gallagher, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, and ADAs Kevin Sunderland and Ralph Alloco, both of the Special Victims Unit.



Happy 4th of July!

Tuesday will be filled with cookouts, fireworks, and celebrating our country. We celebrate our fundamental American rights, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness with friends and family.

Often people celebrate the end of Independence Day celebrations with fireworks. The City of Rochester and many of our County's towns and villages host their own professional firework shows. Attending these events is a great way to show support for your community and to interact with your neighbors. However, if using fireworks at home, please do so in a legal and responsible manner.

Fourth of July parties will be in full swing this weekend. It is imperative to remember if you feel different, you drive different. Please make smart choices if you choose to celebrate with alcohol. Driving while intoxicated not only affects your life, but lives around you!

MCDA in the News

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/convicted-sex-offender-found-guilty-of-murdering-woman-last-september/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/06/30/ronald-lagasse-guilty-murder-mary-simzer-rochester-ny/70371884007/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/sex-offender-ronald-lagasse-convicted-of-murder/>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2023-06-29-rochester-man-guilty-in-pearce-st-homicide/?pname=www.wham1180.com&sc=dnsredirect>

<https://nydailyrecord.com/2023/06/30/jury-reaches-guilty-verdict-in-murder-case/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/registered-sex-offender-convicted-in-2022-murder-rochester#>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/man-convicted-in-chestnut-street-double-homicide/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/greece-man-convicted-of-2021-double-fatal-shooting-in-rochester>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/06/28/timothy-brown-convicted-double-homicide-apartment-building-rochester-ny/70363441007/>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/06/28/timothy-brown-convicted-double-homicide-apartment-building-rochester-ny/70363441007/>

<https://nydailyrecord.com/2023/06/28/jury-reaches-guilty-verdict-in-double-murder/>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.